

### **REMARKS**

This responds to the Office Action mailed on October 26, 2004.

Claims 1-7 and 15-20 are canceled, and claim 24 is added; as a result, claims 8-14 and 21-24 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-7 and 15-20 are cancelled without prejudice to the Applicant. Thus, Applicant reserves the right to file later continuations directed to these cancelled claims or their subject matters.

### **Claim Objections**

Claims 6-7, 17, and 20 were objected to on the basis that these claims are not in proper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. These claims have been cancelled. Thus, the rejections are no longer appropriate and should be withdrawn.

### **§103 Rejection of the Claims**

Claims 1-2, 6-7, 15-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohland et al. (U.S. 6,129,779) in view of either Hillis (U.S. 4,545,877) or Todd et al. (U.S. 5,368,902). Claims 1-7 and 15-20 have been cancelled. Thus, these rejections are no longer appropriate and should be withdrawn.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Claim 19 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has newly added claim 24, which is cancelled claim 19 rewritten in independent format. Thus, Applicant believes claim 24 is now in condition for allowance.

Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 8-14 and 21-23 are allowed.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. Only claims that have been allowed remain in this application. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (513) 942-0224 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

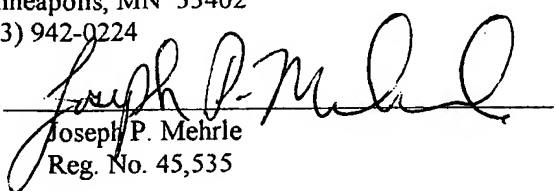
LARRY LEE LOUGH

By his Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.  
P.O. Box 2938  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
(513) 942-0224

Date 12-22-04

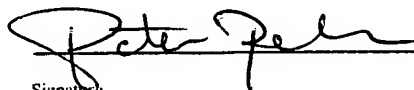
By

  
Joseph P. Mehrle  
Reg. No. 45,535

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 22 day of December, 2004.

Peter Rebuffoni

Name



Signature